

Brezhnev Assails U.S. in Three Areas, But Still Affirms Peaceful Coexistence

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld
The Washington Post Foreign Service
MOSCOW, Dec. 3—Leonid I. Brezhnev assailed American policies in Viet-Nam, the Congo and Cuba today, but avoided new Soviet commitments at those points and affirmed peaceful coexistence too.

Emerging as the foreign policy spokesman of the new Soviet leadership, Brezhnev, Communist Party First Secretary, spoke at Kremlin friendship rally for Antonin Novotny, leader of Czechoslovakia's government and Communist Party. Novotny leaves Moscow Friday after five days of public salutes and private consultations.

On Viet-Nam, Brezhnev scored alleged American bombing and strafing of Communist North Viet-Nam and said the Soviet Union "cannot remain indifferent" and is "prepared to give necessary aid."

In a less authoritative statement, Tass used precisely the same words last

week. Like Tass, Brezhnev did not indicate what would be the trigger or form of the aid.

Blames White House

On the Congo, a less critical and imminent test in Soviet eyes, Brezhnev went beyond previous general accusations and blamed the White House specifically for "blessing" the parachute rescue mission.

But he confined pledges of action to a promise to "take those people (Congolese) into our hearts" and to give "all our support" to "the national liberation struggle."

On Cuba, Brezhnev said the American "economic blockade, provocations and violations of sovereignty seriously poison not only the Caribbean atmosphere but the whole international climate." He affirmed a policy of general support for Cuba, which, to judge by the quiet treatment accorded it recently in the Soviet press, is not in immediate need of it.

Speaking with typical restraint about the Sino-Soviet dispute, Brezhnev said nothing to alter the common diplomatic assumption that the proposed Dec. 15 meeting of Communist Parties has been postponed. This was a controversial project of former First Secretary Khrushchev.

Novotny Goes Further

Novotny went a step further, saying that "the opinion of most fraternal parties" is that a meeting would be "absolutely correct." This is the current formula of parties on the Soviet Union's side. It avoids such key details as the time participants and agenda of a world Communist conference.

Brezhnev in passing made the Soviet Union's first public reply to the Chinese proposal, issued after Peking first atomic explosion in October, to ban nuclear arms. He said it was "worth harkening to."

But his major comment on nuclear affairs was another

slam at West German participation in the proposed Allied nuclear navy, known as the multilateral force. The MLF would be a dangerous concession to militarists' appetites, he said.

The bulk of Brezhnev's and Novotny's remarks were on Soviet-Czechoslovak relations. They spoke in the familiar roles of gracious patron and grateful client.

A "friendship rally" is quite literally that. Six thousand persons broke up a workday for two hours of oratory in the Kremlin's huge Palace of Congresses. As one they clapped rhythmically and shouted "friend-ship, friend-ship."

The first three speakers were a worker, scientist and teacher, who spoke fervently about the talents of Czechoslovaks and their ties to Russians and socialism. They were often interrupted by warm applause, but not so often as Brezhnev, who was applauded 26 times in less than 20 minutes.